

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 1a, 1b, and 1c. This sheet, which includes Figures 1a, 1b, and 1c, replaces the original sheet including Figures 1a, 1b, and 1c.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1)

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-27, and 29-36 are presently active in this case. Claims 1-17 were cancelled by a previous amendment. The present Amendment amends Claims 18, 29-31, 33 and 35 without introducing any new matter; and cancels Claim 28 without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as not being directed to statutory subject matter. Claims 18-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rosenberg et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0109668, hereinafter "Rosenberg").

In response to the rejection of dependent Claim 33 as not being directed to statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101, Claim 33 is amended to recite "[a] computer readable storage medium having a computer program recorded thereon," thereby being directed to statutory subject matter. These features find non-limiting support in Applicants' disclosure as originally filed, for example in original Claims 14-15. No new matter has been added.

In response to the objection to Figs. 1a to 1c as not showing every feature recited in the claims, submitted herewith is a Letter Submitting Drawing Sheet along with one Replacement Sheet for Figures. 1a, 1b, and 1c, where the discontinuous region of the applied force between the velocities 0 and v_{\min} . It is therefore believed that the claimed feature "the predetermined hold force value being larger than the interaction feedback force within said inverted damping operation mode" is shown in these Figures. In addition, the amendments to Figures 1a, 1b, and 1c is not believed to raise any issues of new matter because this representation is support in Applicants' disclosure as originally filed, for example at p. 9, ll. 32-37, to recite "[o]utside the given interval v_{\min} , v_{\max} i.e., for comparable small velocities v the absolute value f of the interaction feedback force IFF is set to a relatively high value f_{hold}

or f_{\max} , ... [t]his would leave to the impression that for relative small velocities below v_{\min} a finger or another limp is more or less fixed and hold in a fixed position.” In light of the above discussion and the amendments to Figs. 1a, 1b, and 1c, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 18 is amended to recite “receiving velocity information data that is based on spatial vector positions by evaluating spatial directions independently from each other with respect to a position and spatial movement of at least one haptic device.”

Independent Claim 35 is amended to recite analogous features, directed to a method. These features find non-limiting support in Applicants’ disclosure as originally filed, for example in the specification at p. 2, ll. 18-24, p. 3, ll. 23-27, and in original Claims 8 and 9. No new matter has been added. Consequently, dependent Claim 28, that recites similar features of original dependent Claim 8, has been cancelled. Claims 29-31 have been amended to correspond to the changes of independent Claim 18.

In response to the rejection of Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, and request reconsideration thereof, as next discussed.

Briefly summarizing, Applicants’ Claim 18 is directed to a method for operating a haptic interface unit. The method includes, *inter alia*: receiving velocity information data ***that is based on spatial vector positions by evaluating spatial directions independently from each other with respect to a position and spatial movement of at least one haptic device***, generating interaction feedback force data based on and in dependence of at least said velocity information data, said interaction feedback force data being representative for an interaction feedback force to be generated by said at least one haptic device.

As explained in Applicants’ specification in a non-limiting example, by basing velocity information on spatial vector positions by evaluating spatial directions independently from each other with respect to a position and spatial movement of a haptic device, it is

possible to give a more realistic feeling to the user when operating a haptic interface
(Specification, p. 2, ll. 18-24.)

Turning now to the applied reference, Rosenberg is directed to a method of controlling haptic feedback to enhance navigation of a cursor 206 in a graphic display environment. (Rosenberg, Abstract, Fig. 2.) Rosenberg explains that one of the haptic effects that is produced is an attractive/repulsive force, so that a user can be biased to move the user object 34 towards the target. (Rosenberg, p. 6, ¶ [0052], ll. 1-6, Figs. 1 and 2.) Rosenberg also discussed that the haptic feedback can depend on a distance between the cursor 206 and the target 201. (Rosenberg, p. 6, ¶ [0052], ll. 10-14, Figs. 1 and 2.) With respect to Rosenberg's Fig. 5c, a functional graph 320 is shown, where a feedback force is represented as a function of the velocity of the cursor. (Rosenberg, Fig. 5c, reference numerals 320, 322, 334, and 326.) Rosenberg thereby explains that this distance can be measured between a point of a window 201 of a graphical user interface. But Rosenberg clearly fails to teach all the features of Applicants' independent Claim 18. In particular, Rosenberg fails to teach:

receiving velocity information data that is based on spatial vector positions by evaluating spatial directions independently from each other with respect to a position and spatial movement of at least one haptic device.

(Claim 18, portions omitted.) Rosenberg merely explains that sensors 28 can be used that may detect a position, motion, or other characteristics of a user object 34, (Rosenberg, p. 4, ¶ [0036]) but fails to teach anything where spatial directions are evaluated independently from each other, required by Applicants' Claim 18.

Therefore, the cited passages of the applied reference Rosenberg fail to teach every feature recited in Applicants' Claim 18, so that Claims 1-34 are believed to be patentably distinct over Rosenberg. Moreover, Applicants' independent Claim 35 recites features that are analogous to the above discussed features of independent Claim 18. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully traverse, and request reconsideration of the rejection based on Rosenberg.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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